

Please cancel Claims 2 and 7.

8. (Amended) A graft attachment assembly comprising:

a body including a base portion having a top surface and a branch portion having a passageway therethrough projecting outwardly from the top surface of the base portion; and

a clamp member having a bottom surface and an opening configured to receive the branch portion, the clamp member being movable about the branch portion, the bottom surface of the clamp member being positioned adjacent to the top surface of the graft member to clamp tissue therebetween;

wherein the clamp member includes at least one retaining member positioned about the opening and the branch portion includes at least one tooth which is aligned with the at least one retaining member in a clamped position, the retaining member being movable into engagement with the at least one tooth to retain the clamp member in the clamped position, and

[A graft attachment assembly according to claim 7,] wherein the at least one tooth includes a plurality of teeth, the retaining member being selectively movable into engagement with any one of the teeth to accommodate tissues of different thickness.

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9. (Amended) A graft attachment assembly comprising:

a graft member including a base portion having a top surface and a branch portion having a passageway therethrough, the branch portion projecting outwardly from the base portion;

a clamp member having a bottom surface configured to sealingly engage the top surface of the base portion and an opening dimensioned to slidably receive the branch portion, the clamp member being movable about the branch portion to a position adjacent to the base portion to clamp tissue therebetween; and

a locking member slidable about the branch portion, the locking member being dimensioned to secure a vessel about the branch portion at a position spaced from the base portion and the clamp member.

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(Amended) A graft attachment comprising:

a graft member including a base portion having a top surface and a branch portion having a passageway therethrough, the branch portion projecting outwardly from the base portion;

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a clamp member having a bottom surface configured to sealingly engage the top surface of the base portion and an opening dimensioned to slidably receive the branch portion, the clamp member being movable about the branch portion to a position adjacent to the base portion to clamp tissue therebetween; and

a locking member slidable about the branch portion, the locking member being dimensioned to secure a vessel about the branch portion;

[A graft attachment assembly according to claim 9,] wherein the top surface of the base member is convex and the bottom surface of the clamp member is concave.

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18. (Amended) A graft attachment assembly comprising:

an attachment member including a base insertable into a vessel lumen[, the base including] and at least one branch extending distally [therefrom] from the base to receive a graft; and

a locking member positionable about the graft and [mountable with respect to] the branch at a position spaced from the base to retain the graft on a distal portion of the branch.

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21. (Amended) A method of attaching [a] first and second vessel portions comprising the steps of:

(a) placing a base portion of a graft attachment assembly within a lumen of the first vessel portion, the graft attachment assembly including a branch portion projecting from the base portion, the branch portion being positioned to extend distally from the vessel;

(b) positioning a second vessel portion about a first end of the branch portion; and

(c) frictionally securing the second vessel portion about the branch portion at a location spaced from the base portion.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-25 remain in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 18 and 21 have been amended and Claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.